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PROVISIONAL

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ENGLISH

Seventeenth special session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 20 February 1990, at 10 a.m.

Temporary President:	Prince BOLA AJIBOLA	(Nigeria)
later:	Mr. GARBA (President)	(Nigeria)

- Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Nigeria
- Minute of silent prayer or meditation
- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
- Credentials of representatives to the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly
  (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
- Election of the President
- Address by Mr. Joseph Nanven Garba, President of the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session
- Statement by the Secretary-General
- Report of the Preparatory Committee for the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly
- Organization of the session
- Adoption of the agenda
- General debate

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

ITEM 1 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

OPENING OF THE SESSION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIA

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I declare open the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, to consider the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation.

ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

MINUTE OF SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I now invite representatives to stand and observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/S-17/5)

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: In keeping with the established practice, I call the attention of the General Assembly to document A/S-17/5, which contains the text of a letter addressed to me by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that 14 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

According to Article 19 of the Charter:

"A member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

(The Temporary President)

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

ITEM 3 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(a) APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: Rule 28 of the rules of procedure provides that the General Assembly, at the beginning of each session, shall appoint, on the proposal of the President, a Credentials Committee consisting of nine members.

In conformity with precedents, I propose that the Credentials Committee for the seventeenth special session be the same as that for the forty-fourth session of the Assembly, namely: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, China, Colombia, Malawi, the Philippines, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Zaire.

If there is no objection, I shall consider the Credentials Committee thus constituted.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: In this connection, may I call the attention of members of the Assembly to a note verbale from the Secretary-General, dated 15 January 1990, in which it was stated that credentials should be issued for all representatives to the special session in accordance with rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. I urge all members to submit the credentials of representatives to the Secretary-General at their earliest convenience.

ITEM 4 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: By its decision 44/410, of 14 November 1989, the Assembly proposed that the special session should take place under the presidency of the President of the forty-fourth session, Mr. Joseph Nanven Garba of Nigeria.

I take it that the Assembly wishes to elect him President of the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT: I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Garba and invite him to assume the presidency.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the President to the podium.

Mr. Garba took the Chair.

ADDRESS BY MR. JOSEPH NANVEN GARBA, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I am honoured to have been elected by the General Assembly to preside over this special session. I must once again convey to the members of the Assembly the profound appreciation of my country, Nigeria, and my personal gratitude for the trust they continue to repose in me.

Our world is going through momentous changes in various spheres of our social, political and economic endeavours. While we are witnessing positive changes in the political configuration of the world, social and humanitarian problems appear to be on the increase and, indeed, to defy solution. One such problem is that of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the attendent scourge on our societies.

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(The President)

This historic session is the first special session of the General Assembly ever convened for the purpose of discussing the issue of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Drug abuse world wide, with its deleterious effects, is an immense problem which affects all of us and poses an increasing threat to international peace and security.

In recognition of the dangers this problem poses to the international community, the United Nations already has in place various treaties and conventions on narcotic drugs. Notable among these are the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and its Protocol of 1972, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the recently concluded 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In spite of those conventions, the global problem persists.

(The President)

The special session has therefore been convened to demonstrate and articulate the continued grave concern of the international community over the rising menace of drug cultivation, trade and abuse. While many efforts have been made to contain its many-sided effects, the scope of the challenge we all face was poignantly reflected by the events in Colombia in 1989 following the assassination of the presidential candidate Luís Carlos Galan.

Only last week, the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States of America held a historic summit in Cartagena, Colombia. I believe that I speak for all representatives and the countries they represent when I pay tribute to those Presidents for their welcome initiative. The Charter of the United Nations obliges Member States, in the appropriate circumstances, to evolve regional initiatives for many outstanding problems. In different degrees, drug problems affect every region of our world. It is for that reason that I wish to encourage other regional groups to emulate the Cartagena initiative.

The President of Colombia, Virgilio Barco Vargas, in a courageous statement to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly last September, expressed in the firmest terms the conviction that the war against illicit drug traffickers can and must be won. This special session of the General Assembly must send a clear ultimatum to those merchants of death that their cause will not prosper and that if they continue along that evil path it will lead only to their own destruction. The combined efforts of the international community will ensure that when they are beaten in one country they will find no sanctuary elsewhere. By our united efforts we will surely defeat them.

The fight against drugs is indeed a war in which the battle lines are drawn world-wide. They exist in towns and cities of all countries in the world where drugs are illicitly consumed. They are to be found in our harbours, airports and

(The President)

international highways. None of us can be safe in this war. We all therefore have a responsibility to help to defeat the enemy.

There is no doubt that while demand for drugs exists, there will be criminals prepared to exploit it. Simple economics dictate that while demand remains high, the more successful we are in the task of reducing production, the greater the rewards to undetected traffickers will be. We must therefore pursue a comprehensive campaign against drug abuse in all its aspects, concentrating not only on the eradication of supply and the suppression of illicit trafficking but also on prevention and reduction of demand. We must therefore develop effective programmes to treat and rehabilitate drug abusers.

The United Nations system has been involved in drug-abuse control since its inception, in particular through its three core drug-control units located in Vienna. Substantial co-operation between Member States in drug-abuse control has already been developed in the United Nations system. The International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1987 drew two key documents on the subject: the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug-Abuse Control and, of course, the Political Declaration.

The work in drug-abuse control that the United Nations has done in the past gives us a useful foundation upon which we can now build. Therefore, at this special session, we must reaffirm existing mandates and, where possible, look for ways and means of strengthening those mechanisms.

While we recognize the efforts so far made by the United Nations and the various initiatives at regional and unilateral levels, it is becoming evident that the United Nations must at this stage set up a monitoring mechanism that will oversee the works of the various drug-control units and ensure implementation by States parties. Such a unit must meet regularly to appraise the efforts of the States and recommend appropriate measures where defaults have been detected.

(The President)

We must also take a very hard look at the resources allocated to the international organizations engaged in the fight against drug-abuse control. They need and indeed deserve far greater allocations than those prevailing now. I urge Member States, when considering what more to ask of the United Nations in drug-abuse control, to be realistic about the cost. What has become the old cliché "within existing resources" may no longer be appropriate at this stage.

The drug-abuse problem can never be solved unless it is seen in a wider context. Drug abuse is not a phenomenon that can be viewed in isolation. The reasons why people abuse drugs, while not in many cases clearly understood, appear to be related to many other social problems. The reasons why people engage in illicit cultivation, manufacture and trafficking in drugs are of course largely economic. Solutions must therefore be sought in the context of general improvements to our society.

The key issue in many countries is overall peace and development. When considering drug abuse, we must therefore not forget the needs of the developing countries as they struggle to come to terms with and to overcome that dreadful malaise. General Assembly resolution 44/142 calls for the establishment of an intergovernmental group of experts to study the economic and social consequences of illicit drug traffic. I commend those proposals, which I believe can lead to much greater understanding of that difficult but vitally important issue.

Let me conclude by returning once more to the theme of the war against drugs. This is a war in which no quarter is asked and no quarter is given. It is a war none of us can afford to lose. It is therefore imperative that we combine our efforts to ensure that we are victorious. There are grounds for optimism that recent world political events have given us the opportunity we so badly need to tackle those issues with real vigour and on a scale commensurate with the size of

(The President)

the problem. Let us avail ourselves of the opportunity provided by the lessening of tensions world-wide to build a truly multinational commitment to win this war.

I call on all States Member of the United Nations assembled here for this special session to devote all their energies to ensuring that we do not let this opportunity slip from our grasp.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, who wishes to address the General Assembly at this time.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL: We are assembled here today in response to the threat posed by drug abuse. Let us not underestimate this threat. We are talking about personal tragedy, severe damage to health, the disruption of society, economic breakdown, the undermining of democratic institutions, corruption, intimidation, violence and death.

Drug abuse is now right at the top of the list of priorities requiring urgent attention from the international community. It is by its nature truly international, and it demands a co-ordinated international response. Only the United Nations can orchestrate that response. The Assembly has the solemn responsiblity to take appropriate and effective action.

Drug abuse causes damage at all levels: to the individual, to the family and to the community. It has implications for public administration locally, nationally and internationally. The scale of the damage that can be caused has become all too clear to the people of certain countries, and is becoming clearer to most others.

Many States are affected, but Colombia deserves special mention because of the huge illicit trafficking problem it faces and because of the true courage and heroism in fighting it shown by its President, Government and people. Colombia has

(The Secretary-General)

made many sacrifices over a long period in combating the evil power of the trafficking cartels.

This war is not over, nor is it by any means confined to Colombia. But the steadfast resolve of Colombia's Government, as well as that of the Governments of Bolivia, Peru and others, has demonstrated that it is possible to confront, to match and to overcome the awesome power of the cartels. It is an example and an inspiration to all of us.

(The Secretary-General)

In this connection, the Cartagena meeting of the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States is a very encouraging sign of strengthened regional co-operation in this fight.

The United Nations has been given an important mandate to combat the problem of drug abuse in all its manifestations. All countries threatened by the drug scourge can turn to the Organization for advice and material assistance. We are here now to decide how the international community, in particular the United Nations, can more effectively counter a threat that has been dramatically magnified in recent years.

With this background no one can doubt the importance of this special session of the General Assembly. We must tackle the issues head-on in the course of this week. We must focus our minds from the outset on the need to achieve real results. We have no time to spend in simply redefining the problem or making statements about what we have done up to now. The last regular session of the General Assembly provided ample opportunity for the issue to be debated in a general sense. Many fine and important statements were made about it on that occasion.

Let us not forget that much substantive work in international drug abuse control has been in progress since the League of Nations. Today the three United Nations drug abuse control units located in the United Nations Office in Vienna and certain other elements of the United Nations system have clear mandates for a wide range of activities, and over the years plans of action have been drawn up to focus and co-ordinate these activities.

The beginning of a new era of international consensus was marked by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, held in Vienna in 1987. The declaration adopted at that Conference and the Comprehensive Multi-Disciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control agreed upon

(The Secretary-General)

by the 138 States that participated established the political framework and broad strategy to be followed by the international community at all levels.

Legal instruments drawn up over the years culminated in 1988 in the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. This provides measures more far-reaching than ever before to enable Governments, through closer co-operation, to deprive traffickers of their ill-gotten gains and deny them safe havens anywhere in the world.

The 1988 Convention is still not in force. I urge States to ratify it without further delay and, even before this, to implement its provisions vigorously.

This special session gives us a unique opportunity, which we cannot afford to squander, to transform the agreed strategy into a clear-cut global programme of action designed to bring this dramatic problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking under control. There is a general consensus that this programme must be based on global collaboration, with no country remaining indifferent or outside the alliance that must be created. To be effective, such global collaboration requires joint action, without reservation, action that is both decisive and unconditional.

Certain obstances commonly cited as justification for not taking the necessary action will have to be overcome. Drug abuse and trafficking are problems of such magnitude that in order to address them effectively we must rise above political differences and find ways to work more closely together.

It is most certainly not my intention to play down the importance of bilateral assistance. However, we have seen on a number of occasions that bilateral anti-drug action can be hampered by political concerns. This is not the case with a multilateral approach. The United Nations, because of its international status and its basic Charter principles, serves no single country and plays a neutral and objective role. It is therefore vitally important to strengthen the pivotal role

(The Secretary-General)

of the United Nations in the global fight against drug abuse.

During the next four days the General Assembly, besides reaffirming our existing mandates in drug abuse control, has the opportunity to strengthen the United Nations system by agreeing on new mandates. It is essential, however, to ensure that commensurate resources are made available. The modest resources currently available to the United Nations for drug abuse control are already well known to members. In order to make a really significant impact on drug abuse and illicit trafficking world wide, very considerable additional funding will be required. It is not too much to say that the international struggle against illicit drugs amounts to a war that must be fought with the kind of resources wars command.

In these days of continued budgetary constraints and with a ceiling on the regular budget, it is understandable that Member States look to the Secretary-General to meet new priority requirements by first exhausting all possibilities of absorption. In the case of the regular budget, the additional sums required for drug abuse control, while minuscule in relation to the vast size of the problem, are too large to be obtained by normal redeployment. Exceptional situations demand exceptional remedies. The threat to humanity of drug abuse is so grave that I feel obliged to urge Member States to find ways and means of providing additional funds to the regular budget for the fight to overcome it.

Extrabudgetary resources greatly in excess of what is currently available are also needed, in particular for the field operations financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC).

I am, of course, at the same time acutely conscious of the need to make the very best use of the resources already available. The system-wide plan of action now in an advanced stage of preparation should ensure that the activities of the different components of the system are mutually reinforcing.

(The Secretary-General)

It is also necessary, in the words of General Assembly resolution 44/141, "to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control ..."

It will be the task of the expert group mandated by the same resolution to advise me on how best to do that. I would only stress, again in the interest of maximizing resource use, that a major concern of mine in this exercise will be to avoid unnecessary disruption of the important work that is in progress. The emphasis must be on streamlining and making more effective our existing arrangements, not creating additional bureaucratic structures.

In ironic contrast to our own lack of resources, illicit drug trafficking has created such vast profits that in some cases national economies have been distorted and democratic institutions threatened. There is, moreover, a close link with development: the production of illicit drugs is in many instances a manifestation of the economics of poverty and the lack of viable alternatives, while extensive drug abuse jeopardizes development; and in too many countries the prospects of sustained development are already blighted by the shadow of debt.

No lasting solution can be hoped for without a concerted and comprehensive attack, encompassing all the ramifications of the problem, including enhanced co-operation for development, some measure of debt relief and the assurance of markets and reasonable prices for legal export commodities.

Market forces apply to drugs as they do to any other traded commodity; hence our endeavours will be frustrated if we fail to bring about a drastic and rapid reduction in demand for drugs. It is accordingly a source of encouragement that the first major international conference on this complex and critical subject, convened by the Government of the United Kingdom in association with the United Nations, will be held in London in April.

(The Secretary-General)

The campaign that must be waged on so many fronts at once will inevitably be long and demand all our reserves of energy and endurance. Yet we should not underestimate the human potential for rapid adaptation, particularly as we are meeting during a period of rapid political change in many parts of the world. In the short period since the last meeting of the General Assembly, events in Eastern Europe in particular have moved in a direction and at a pace that none could have foreseen.

These developments will also have effects on the relationships between East and West and between North and South, not least because they are already giving rise to massive new requirements for development co-operation, for which overall resources are also limited. Yet I believe that this potential dichotomy in interest could, with resolve and imagination, be shown to be false. Rather, as tension between East and West is relaxed, there is now a real opportunity for more resources to be channelled into the war against poverty, a war fought in order to win sustainable development in its true sense of a better livelihood for millions of deprived people all over the world. Unless we make progress on that front, we shall not win the war against drugs.

The excellent and much-quoted address to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session by President Virgilio Barco of Colombia was entitled "The international fight against drugs cannot be a war of words". Let us resolve that at this special session of the General Assembly words lead to action and that this action leads to success. Drug abuse is a time-bomb ticking away in the heart of our civilization. We must find measures to deal with it before it explodes and destroys us.

ITEMS 5 AND 6 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/S-17/4)

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I call on the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Mr. Peter Hohenfellner of Austria.

Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Seventeenth Special Session: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the report of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Seventeenth Special Session (A/S-17/4).

The Preparatory Committee held its first session on 6 and 7 December 1989 and its second session from 12 to 14 February 1990. Section IV of the report contains the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and a decision taken by the Committee. Paragraph 25 of the report states:

"The Preparatory Committee, in informal meetings, considered a draft political declaration and a draft programme of action. It was agreed to continue the consideration of those two draft documents at the special session."

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly is grateful to the Chairman and those who participated in the Preparatory Committee for their efforts to expedite our work and, in particular, to get the special session off to a very good start.

May I take it that the General Assembly endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee of the Whole for the Seventeenth Special Session (A/S-17/4) and the recommendations contained therein?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: On the basis of the decision just taken by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the title of the topic to be considered by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session will be "Question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such co-operation".

On the same basis and in accordance with the practice of the Assembly at previous special sessions, the Chairmen of the Main Committees at the forty-fourth session will continue in the same posts for the seventeenth special session. Accordingly, I have to inform the Assembly that the following Chairmen are present at this special session: the Chairman of the Second Committee, Mr. Ahmed Ghezal of Tunisia; the Chairman of the Third Committee, Mr. Paul Désiré Kaboré of Burkina Faso; the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, Mr. Robert Van Lierop of Vanuatu; and the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Ahmed Fathi Al-Masri of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In paragraph 35 of the report just endorsed by the Assembly it is recommended that the Chairmen of the Main Committees may be replaced by members of their delegations or members of the delegations of States belonging to the same regional group. Accordingly, the following replacements have been communicated to the Secretariat: for the Chairman of the First Committee, Ms. Adriana Pulido-Santana of Venezuela; for the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, Mr. Nikolai Makarevitch of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; and for the Chairman of the Sixth Committee, Mr. Philippe Kirsch of Canada.

(The President)

The Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, who will serve in the same capacity at the seventeenth special session, are the representatives of the following Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Congo, Costa Rica, France, Gambia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

In endorsing the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, the Assembly has established an ad hoc committee of the whole, which will be designated Ad Hoc Committee of the Seventeenth Special Session. In accordance with the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee will be a full member of the General Committee of the seventeenth special session. The Preparatory Committee recommends that the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Mr. Peter Hohenfellner of Austria, serve in the same capacity in the Ad Hoc Committee.

I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to elect Mr. Hohenfellner by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the General Assembly, and on my own behalf, I congratulate Mr. Peter Hohenfellner and wish him well in the discharge of the important and onerous responsibilities that he has just assumed.

The General Committee of the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session has now been fully constituted.

(The President)

On the basis of the decision just taken by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, one meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee shall be reserved to hear United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations that have received a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly, and one representative from non-governmental organizations. No statement shall exceed 10 minutes.

It was also decided that the NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse should designate one representative to speak in the Ad Hoc Committee on behalf of all interested non-governmental organizations.

(The President)

In a related matter and pursuant to consultations in the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, it is proposed that the Assembly decide that the Ad Hoc Committee hear the Mayor of New York City, Mr. David Dinkins, at its meeting this afternoon.

I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should also like to inform members that some Member States have supported requests that the Observers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland take part in the debate in plenary meeting during the seventeenth special session.

It may be recalled that, in accordance with established practice of the General Assembly, non-Member Observer States may normally make statements in the Main Committees and, accordingly by implication in the Ad Hoc Committee at a special session. However, following consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, it is proposed that the General Assembly take a decision, without setting a precedent for the future, to hear the Observers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Holy See, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland in the course of the debate in the plenary meeting during the seventeenth special session.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In view of the large number of representatives already inscribed on the list of speakers, it is proposed that plenary meetings should start punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

(The President)

In this connection, I should like to assure the Assembly that I shall be in the Chair punctually at the scheduled time. I sincerely hope that all delegations will make a special effort to co-operate in this regard as usual.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Furthermore, it is proposed that, owing to time constraints, the length of statements, with the exception of those by Heads of State or Government, should be limited to 15 minutes. A flashing white light will be activated at the rostrum to let the speaker know that the 15-minute limit has been reached.

If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

ITEM 7 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (A/S-17/1)

The PRESIDENT: By adopting the report of the Preparatory Committee, the Assembly endorsed the provisional agenda contained therein. In order to expedite our work, the Assembly may wish to adopt the provisional agenda in plenary meeting without referring it to the General Committee.

I take it that the General Assembly agrees to this procedure, in which case I declare the agenda adopted.

The agenda was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Regarding the allocation of items, on the basis of the decision just taken by the General Assembly, agenda items 9 to 13 will be dealt with by the General Assembly in plenary meetings and considered concurrently under agenda item 8.

(The President)

The Assembly has also allocated agenda items 14 and 15 to the Ad Hoc Committee, which is entrusted, inter alia, with the task of preparing a draft political declaration on a draft global programme of action to be considered by the Assembly in plenary meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8

GENERAL DEBATE

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the decision just taken by the General Assembly, the Assembly will also consider agenda items 9 to 13.

I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the general debate be closed this afternoon at 6 o'clock.

I hear no objection.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the general debate to put their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible.

Mr. LONDOÑO (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): Before beginning my statement, I should like, on behalf of the people and Government of Colombia, to express the condolences of our delegation to the people and Government of Papua New Guinea on the passing of Sir Ignatius Kilage, its Governor-General.

Similarly, I wish to express to the Government of Kenya and to the family of my friend, Mr. Ouko, the Foreign Minister, our most sincere feelings of sympathy and solidarity on his tragic death. I had the good fortune to know and admire his leadership and his professional and personal qualities. That is why I wish to protest before the Assembly at the terrible crime of which he was the victim.

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

I congratulate you, Sir, on your election to preside over this special session of the General Assembly. I am sure that your acknowledged ability, intelligence and experience will guarantee the success of this session.

Similarly, I express our gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for the interest that he has always shown in the subject that we are to discuss at this session.

Above all, I must express to this Assembly the gratitude of the Government of Colombia for the favourable reception given to the request made by President Virgilio Barco for the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on the question of international co-operation against the production, supply, demand, trafficking and illicit distribution of narcotics, as well as on the search for an appropriate solution.

Action against drug trafficking would seem to have been limited exclusively to the idea of a mechanism for the suppression of the production of and, in particular, trafficking in and the processing of drugs and psychotropic substances. With the end, recently, of the last decade, it seemed that the long series of fluctuating divergent and frequently contradictory positions with regard to what should be done about the problem had begun slowly to peter out.

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

The 1980s were marked by a lack of leadership in dealing with this extremely delicate matter and by a failure to face up to the responsibility incumbent upon each State in the fight against this scourge. Instead, there was a widespread and simplistic notion that the countries producing and processing the coca plant were the ones that should be seeking, alone and at all costs, a solution to the problem.

Unfortunately, that meant that the burden of the struggle was borne exclusively by a small number of developing countries that were at the same time seeing their incomes and their economies decline because of the discriminatory and unjust treatment being meted out to their exports by the industrialized countries and, in some cases, because of the crushing burden of their foreign debt.

Although the situation has not substantially changed, there are today encouraging signs that change is beginning to occur. The recent Cartagena summit meeting between the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, the United States and Peru and the present special session of the General Assembly are clear indications of that. After a number of years it now appears that the problem is beginning to be understood, or that at least a first step is being taken. We should not forget, however, that the long route ahead of us cannot be covered in a single step, one that some, out of false modesty, political expediency or a distorted view of what economic co-operation should be, have not yet dared take. For them, their most convenient and comfortable course would seem to be to disguise their true responsibilities by posing as prosecutors and thereby avoiding the dock, which is where they really belong, or, in some cases, to adopt the policy of giving an insignificant amount of material co-operation, thereby easing their consciences or the internal political pressures exerted upon them.

The problem of drug trafficking is a many-faceted problem. No State, no matter how large and powerful, and how sophisticated or efficient its police or

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

border-control systems may be, can remain free of the problem of drug trafficking without co-operating faithfully and constructively with the States most affected by drug production and processing.

Similarly, the determined and even heroic struggle of some countries to eliminate the trafficking and processing of narcotic drugs will serve no purpose if at the same time no action is taken against the export of precursor chemicals; if no action is taken to discourage consumption; if there is no control over the transport of the additives and base products needed to manufacture drugs; if there is no proper control of the production of raw materials; if no effective action is taken against corrupt officials and civilian, military and police authorities in certain countries who, through their action or inaction, promote trafficking in narcotic and precursor substances; if no legal action is taken against property and nothing is done to prevent the laundering of moneys derived from those activities; if there is no close co-operation with States that have taken up the struggle and if there is no just and equitable assistance of the economies of the developing countries most affected by drug production and processing.

We are witnessing an evolution towards a comprehensive, concerted and joint confrontation of the problem, with recognition of the effects of demand and consumer abuse as the determining factor in this complex area. In this connection we would draw attention to the initiative taken by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, Margaret Thatcher, which was designed to lead to the convening next April of a summit meeting to deal with the problem from the point of view of drug consumption and drug abuse.

We feel that the time has come to set up a working group that, within the framework of the United Nations, would embark upon an in-depth and frank analysis

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

of drug consumption and demand and lay the groundwork for a comprehensive plan of action in support of the will of our Governments to deal in an integral manner with that scourge, with sincerity and determination, for the benefit of mankind.

The bases of that plan were enunciated by President Barco in his statement at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly on 29 September 1989. His ideas were developed at the eleventh meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at Vienna and at the Preparatory Committee for this special session. The initiative for that plan of action has today been strengthened by the valuable inputs of the various States that make up the international community.

The plan of action has been taking shape on a comprehensive basis, seeking as it does to deal with all the underlying aspects of that terrible scourge, including prevention, interdiction, production and consumption, in addition to rehabilitation. The plan will therefore have to include programmes and policies in education, health, the law, economics and finance.

We say a comprehensive plan, because it cannot claim to be an overall and exclusive instrument but must be undertaken in conjunction with other agreements, given the social, economic, geographical and political conditions of each State. We do not feel, therefore, that co-operation can be limited merely to the allotting of resources to countries with economic problems that suffer the most from the illicit trafficking in narcotics. Furthermore, it must be accompanied by the will to promote and improve the conditions that govern non-concessional economic relations, namely, foreign trade, making it possible for developing countries, on a reciprocal, bilateral and multilateral basis, to strengthen and secure access to international markets without the fear that protectionist trade barriers will be erected. That plan should include an intensification of the campaigns of drug prevention and rehabilitation.

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

The magnitude of the problem should prevent us from assuming that those who are today unaffected by the problem will be exempt from becoming centres of production in the future. One need only recall the situation that prevailed with marijuana, the predecessor of the coca phenomenon. The same can happen with that drug and with similar drugs. We must put into motion effective machinery to halt the transfer of resources under the pretext of legitimizing profits derived from any aspect of drug trafficking.

In calling for international co-operation in our work, we feel it necessary to emphasize the responsibility incumbent upon every Member to deal with every aspect of drug trafficking and the need for concerted actions to be taken, actions respectful of the independence and sovereignty of nations and in strict compliance with the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, without pre-conditions and without using the fight against drug trafficking as a lever to exert economic or political pressure.

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

The co-operation we need should be aimed at strengthening our economies by the elimination of tariff barriers and subsidies in the industrialized countries, since they affect our basic exports; at the granting of preferential treatment to exports from the zones affected by drug trafficking at any of its stages; and at the promotion of foreign investment in those regions, channelled primarily to the social and economic rehabilitation of their inhabitants.

The problem of illicit drug trafficking has also had a serious effect on the administration of justice. Those who have been given the responsibility of administering justice have had to face intimidation and threats. Many judges have paid with their lives for faithfully doing their duty. Frequently the task is made even more painful by the lack of the means necessary for assembling proof that would enable the investigations to be carried out expeditiously and effectively.

The United Nations could make a decisive contribution to the drafting of a plan that would allow our judges to improve their professional qualifications, to modernize their investigative techniques, to enjoy the guarantee of personal safety and to obtain the equipment and resources that would enable them to carry out their functions more thoroughly.

The city of Cartagena de Indias, in Colombia, has just been the setting for a historic meeting of the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, the United States and Peru. The phenomenon of drug trafficking affects the countries that met there in different ways. The Cartagena summit had the merit of approaching the problem of drug production, trafficking, demand and consumption sincerely and realistically, for the first time. The United States, the world's largest consumer of drugs, recognized the great responsibility it bears in the struggle, which until only recently was left to one country or a small group of countries producing or processing drugs. Everyone recognized that the problem of drug trafficking is

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

global and collective and that its various aspects are interrelated; that each of these aspects must be combated; and that the failure of any of the elements that make up the entire problem will threaten the success of all the others.

The document that was signed contains a novel element which is of undoubted importance and which makes it different from the way the subject has traditionally been dealt with. I refer to the recognition of the negative effects on the economies of the Andean countries caused not only by drug trafficking but also by the efforts to eliminate the production and sale of drugs deriving from coca.

An understanding was reached that the best support that can be given to the developing countries in their struggle against drug trafficking is the adoption of measures to strengthen their economies, to improve their production infrastructure, to promote their exports and to provide incentives for investment and foreign trade. Similarly, the United States undertook to support, where necessary, programmes for alternative development and crop substitution. On this subject, emphasis was placed on the need for immediate financial assistance to alleviate the social and economic costs engendered by the interdiction of illicit drug trafficking and the destruction of crops. The United States demonstrated its readiness to give assistance in regard to the balance of payments of the Andean countries in order to meet their needs for foreign exchange and effectively to facilitate access to their markets of the products of those three countries.

Furthermore, action was agreed upon to support comprehensive prevention programmes in order to deal successfully with drugs, as well as to ensure greater co-operation in equipping and training law-enforcement agencies in the Andean countries.

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

The awareness that sustained development by the producing countries requires the creation of jobs, external financing and easier access of exports to foreign markets was made clear during the deliberations and is reflected in the final document signed by the four Presidents.

The control of financial activities and the procedures for allotting to the affected countries the proceeds from embargos and the seizure of goods involved in drug trafficking were also considered during the summit meeting.

In the Cartagena Declaration stress is placed on the need to ensure that the pledges of co-operation are supplemented by bilateral agreements between the parties.

What triumphed in Cartagena was the spirit of concertation. The four countries narrowed their differences and reached consensus on joint policies and actions. We are pleased to have strengthened co-operation based on mutual respect, as sovereign nations and in recognition of our juridical equality.

Colombia and its President, Mr. Virgilio Barco, have attached no conditions to their struggle against drug trafficking, in the form of a quid pro quo on the part of any State or group of States. They have acted and will continue to act with immutable and steadfast moral conviction, in the certainty that this is what needs to be done for the benefit of Colombia and the international community as a whole. Colombia and its President are triumphing.

However, I must state to the General Assembly that millions of men and women in Colombia - and I am sure also in Bolivia, Peru and, in general, Latin America - are awaiting concrete action to implement the offers that have been made.

(Mr. Londoño, Colombia)

If for any reason or under any technical or political pretext, or by means of textual interpretations, action is not forthcoming within a reasonable time frame - particularly action in terms of economic co-operation reflected in the Declaration or in the bilateral agreements between the United States and the other States - there will be an enormous groundswell of frustration in our countries, and this will do absolutely nothing to promote the struggle we are waging. The same feelings would be aroused if other nations did not shoulder their full responsibilities in regard to this struggle.

This special session of the General Assembly constitutes a fundamental step in our collective struggle. We hail this new stage, which will undoubtedly yield promising results and set an example for ever-more-fruitful regional and world action.

Mr. BURKE (Ireland): First, I should like to express my congratulations to you, Sir, on your unanimous election as President of this special session of the General Assembly. I am sure that our work will benefit greatly from your presidency.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Economic Community and its twelve member States.

(Mr. Burke, Ireland)

The dramatic increase in drug abuse and in the illicit production and traffic in narcotics constitutes one of the most serious issues confronting the international community today. Spreading like a plague around the world, the drug problem has left few nations untouched. While its pervasive effects are felt in every section of society it especially threatens our young people. It robs them of their vitality, saps their creativity and too often destroys their dignity as individual human beings. It threatens the fabric of family life and puts whole communities at risk. The growing scale of the phenomenon is such that it now has the potential to destabilize democratic government, distort economic development and corrupt the process of law. As we approach the end of the twentieth century, there is a grave responsibility on us as political leaders to ensure the mobilization of a truly concerted effort to end this scourge.

The problem of drug abuse is, of course, not a new one, even if the scope and extent of the problem are now greatly increased. There are already in place many excellent programmes designed both to reduce demand and to restrict the supply of illicit drugs. At national level, where the primary responsibility for dealing with drug abuse and illicit trafficking rests, many Governments, including those of the member States of the European Community, have considerably enlarged their efforts in this area in recent years. It is appropriate at this point to pay a special tribute to those States, among them several Latin American countries, which, often in very difficult circumstances, have waged a determined campaign to eliminate the illicit production and transit of drugs from and through their territories. The European Council of Heads of State or Government, at its meeting on 8 and 9 December 1989, saluted the courageous action taken by certain countries and urged that everything possible be done to contribute to the success of their

(Mr. Burke, Ireland)

efforts. The Twelve were therefore pleased last month to welcome the special programme of co-operation announced by the Government of Colombia, to which they intend to offer a positive response.

However, let it be clear that the Twelve do not see the campaign against drug abuse as merely a question of tackling the sources of supply. The demand for drugs is no less central to this pernicious equation. One does not exist without the other. As President Barco said in his memorable address at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the only law the narco-terrorists do not break is the law of supply and demand. Only by tackling both simultaneously and with equal intensity along with the related aspects of drug trafficking can progress be made.

The universal nature of the drug problem, however, necessitates a response which extends beyond purely national measures. The illicit trade in narcotics is no respecter of national boundaries. If the international community is to deal effectively with this problem then the efforts of Governments must be complemented by effective concerted action at the regional and international levels. The convening of this special session of the General Assembly is our shared acknowledgement of that fact. Last week's summit and the resulting Cartagena communiqué were another important advance at the regional level. As I shall outline later in my speech, the European Community and its member States are already embarking on an intensified programme of regional co-operation.

The United Nations has long recognized the necessity for concerted international action. Under United Nations auspices a number of important instruments have been adopted in the narcotics field. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances have created a system of international control on illicit trade in drugs. The adoption in 1988 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances represented a

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further significant extension of the international legal framework. The focus on trafficking came from a realization that, with production and demand, it was an essential third arm of the international illicit trade in drugs. The Convention's innovative provisions in such areas as confiscation of assets, controlled delivery and control of substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are carefully designed to impede and disrupt drug drafficking operations to the maximum possible extent. The European Community and all 12 of its member States have signed that Convention and intend to ratify it as soon as possible.

The role of the United Nations has, of course, extended beyond the legal area: important political declarations were adopted at the Vienna Conferences in 1987 and 1988. The Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in 1987 and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control set forth an all-embracing range of practical measures which can make a significant contribution to the fight against drug abuse and the suppression of illicit trafficking.

At the intergovernmental level, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the main policy-making body in the narcotics area, and provides a specialized forum for debate and exchange of ideas. Its advice and guidance have underpinned many of the developments in drug policy over the years.

The European Community and its member States have repeatedly expressed their support for the work being done by the Division on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. While each of those bodies has its own specific mandate within the overall United Nations anti-drug effort, the Secretary-General has stressed the importance of a coherent approach so as to maximize the results attained.

(Mr. Burke, Ireland)

Convinced that action at the international level must be complemented by effective regional measures, the European Community and its member States have intensified their co-operation in the narcotics area, a process made more urgent by the need to prepare for the single European market in 1992. To ensure that this co-operation is as effective as possible, the Twelve, on the initiative of President Mitterrand of France, have recently established a High-Level Group of Co-ordinators on Drug Issues. The Group has been mandated to take all steps necessary to ensure that the actions of the European Community and its member States in the fight against the scourge of drug abuse are closely co-ordinated and that they make the most effective contribution possible to wider international co-operation in this area. The Group will report to the European Council of Heads of State or Government in Dublin next June on areas for priority attention and on the measures required to attain the objectives outlined. A further indication of the commitment of the Twelve in this area was the recent decision to establish within the framework of European political co-operation a forum for ongoing consideration of the international aspects of the drug problem.

Within the Twelve, the fight against drug-related crime will continue to be pursued both in the framework of the Trevi Group, which is composed of Ministers for Justice and the Interior as well as representatives of the relevant state agencies, and in the framework of the Mutual Assistance Group among the customs authorities. The member States also attach particular importance to their co-operation with other Western European States in the Pompidou Group, which, as members will be aware, is composed of 19 European States, including the Twelve, as well as the European Community as an observer, and operates within the framework of the Council of Europe.

(Mr. Burke, Ireland)

As Chairman of the Trevi Group, I can say that it has been active for many years in the fight against illicit drug trafficking, and that a lot of very useful work has been done to improve police co-operation among the Twelve to combat that menace. At the most recent meeting of the Trevi ministers, at Paris in December last, we agreed to make every effort to create throughout the territory of the member States an equivalent degree of pressure against drug traffickers by: strengthening controls at external frontiers, whether these be air, sea or land frontiers; speeding up exchanges of information and stepping up central intelligence units; developing a network of liaison officers; investigating money-laundering offences; and developing a European drugs file.

We have also expressed our solidarity with producer and transit countries in their fight against drugs and have decided to increase and co-ordinate our efforts to co-operate with those countries in technical police matters. To that end, we decided to organize early in 1990 one or more meetings of experts on equipment, training, technical advice, organizational advice and scientific police methods. Their task will be to prepare as soon as possible a ministerial meeting on the subject of technical police co-operation. A special meeting of such experts will be held under the Irish presidency on 9 March next, in Dublin, and it is my intention to devote a special session at the regular meeting of Trevi ministers in Dublin in June next to discussion of the drugs problem and in particular of the question of co-operation with producer and transit countries in technical police matters.

(Mr. Burke, Ireland)

The European Community and its member States fully realize that their ongoing and expanded programmes in such fields as public health, customs control and security must be complemented by a programme of international assistance. The Community is committed to co-operating with developing countries and to supporting the effective implementation of international instruments on a universal basis. In the framework of bilateral co-operation, the European Community allocated 16.8 million ECU between 1987 and 1989, equivalent to approximately $20 million. Recognizing the increased problem in that area, the European Community has decided to raise its contribution substantially: for 1990 alone, the contribution will be 9.8 million ECU, or approximately $11.8 million. Contributions by the Community and its member States account for over 75 per cent of the total contributed to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The Twelve intend to continue their support and hope that others who have not previously been included among the donors will join them so that UNFDAC can more fully respond to the requests from countries that need its assistance.

A great deal is being done in the battle against drugs. However, the sad reality is that measures that may have seemed adequate even in the recent past are now clearly inappropriate to the scale and dimensions which the crisis has now assumed. To combat that scourge, the international community needs to work together more closely than ever before. We need together to devise new strategies that, by dealing comprehensively with demand, production, trafficking, treatment and rehabilitation as well as the financial aspect, will offer a framework on which to build a truly effective campaign against drugs.

That is the task of this special session of the General Assembly. It convenes at a critical juncture, a time when there is a greater determination world-wide than ever before to tackle the drug problem, but also a growing realization of the

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intensity and complexity of its struggle. That should not deter us from our task but rather encourage us to intensify our efforts.

It is self-evident that a reduction in demand is essential if progress is to be made in dealing with the problem of illegal drugs. The European Community and its member States, recognizing its importance, have actively promoted preventive education and public awareness programmes, many of them targetted at young people. The Twelve Ministers for Health agreed in 1989 on the implementation of a co-ordinated measure for preventing drug addiction and taking care of drug addicts. The Twelve have also taken steps to reinforce their co-operation in the field of law enforcement. The Twelve would like to see consideration given to an enhanced role for the United Nations as a focal point for the collection and dissemination of information relating to demand reduction. The world ministerial summit to reduce demand for drugs and to combat the cocaine threat, which will be held in London in April, will provide an important opportunity to review existing policies and to identify further measures that could contribute to a reduction in demand and a strengthening of the effectiveness of demand-reduction policies.

On the supply side, effective action to deal with the availability of crops used in the illicit production of drugs is also vital. The European Community and its member States believe that policies aimed at the prevention and substitution of illicit narcotic plant cultivation will be fully successful only if pursued in a framework of comprehensive rural development programmes. These must obviously incorporate incentives designed to identify viable crop substitution programmes and the means to facilitate the efficient marketing of those crops. To help achieve that objective, we believe that it is necessary to expand the level of economic and technical assistance provided by UNFDAC and by intergovernmental bodies and specialized agencies. That should include arrangements for enhanced co-operation at the bilateral and regional levels.

(Mr. Burke, Ireland)

It is essential also that States take steps to eliminate the diversion for illicit use of precursor chemicals and related materials through the application of articles 12 and 13 of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

We call for the fullest possible co-operation at all levels within the guidelines set out in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline (CMO) to reinforce the existing system of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances provided for in the relevant international instruments.

Progress in the battle against drug trafficking will be greatly enhanced by early ratification of the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Twelve would propose that, to the extent that they are able to do so, States should apply provisionally the terms of the 1988 Convention. States should also conclude bilateral and multilateral co-operation agreements to build on the provisions of the Convention. It is essential that States co-operate fully in exchanging information on all matters related to the traffic in drugs. In that regard, we recall that General Assembly resolution 44/142 requests the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the economic and social consequences of the illicit traffic in drugs. Within the Community, the Ministers of the Twelve responsible for the police have decided to create a European focal point for drug seizures that will permit improved co-ordination among member States and thereby add to the effectiveness of the anti-drug effort through the Community. In that regard, we also attach importance to work done by Interpol and others.

The Twelve are confident that the special session will endorse the view that the treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of drug abuse must be a matter of priority concern. The Twelve consider that the financial aspects of the illicit trade in drugs require particular attention. States should take steps to ensure

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that banking and financial organizations in their territory do not benefit from the drug trade and that they do not become involved in the processing of the often vast sums of money associated with drug trafficking. States should also ensure that the traffickers do not benefit from their ill-gotten gains. We urge all Governments to consider introducing appropriate domestic legislation to trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking and to criminalize money laundering. We also suggest consideration by States of the possibility of increasing the funds allocated to anti-drug activities, either nationally or at the international level, taking into account the increased confiscation of assets derived from illicit trafficking.

Ensuring that the United Nations is equipped for its new and expanded responsibilities in the drugs field requires that the structures of its drug bodies be reviewed and adapted to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We therefore welcome the decision to establish an expert group to advise on the structural arrangements for drug-abuse control and look forward to its report, which is due to be submitted to the General Assembly at its next regular session. We are confident that that study will contribute to ensuring that the United Nations operate in that area through streamlined structures that pursue co-ordinated objectives in the most efficient and rational manner. However, if the conviction expressed on all sides that the United Nations must play a leading role in the fight against drugs is to be meaningful, then the increased resources necessary to allow it to do so must be provided. It is the view of the Twelve that a higher proportion of the regular budget should be allocated to the drugs area, and we urge the special session to send a clear message to that effect.

In his report to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly the Secretary-General referred to estimates that the monetary value of drug trafficking had recently surpassed that of the international trade in oil and was second only

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to the arms trade. These are depressing statistics. But notwithstanding the difficulties, there are grounds for optimism. We should take heart from the brave example of the Government and the people of Colombia. There is indeed a growing sense in the international community that by acting together we can turn the tide. The special session is a major opportunity to advance this objective. The European Community and its member States will work unstintingly to ensure its success. For the sake of our young people we cannot afford to fail.

Mr. ALVAREZ DEL CASTILLO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The people and the Government of Mexico wish to express their great satisfaction and sincere gratitude for the responsibility delegations have assumed in carrying out the Assembly's work. Its results will allow us to intensify the fight against problems that affect all of us and that demand solidarity in the pursuit of common goals and co-ordination in concrete action.

(Mr. Alvarez del Castillo, Mexico)

Each generation leaves a mark that has a bearing on the following generation and influences it. The decades of this century have witnessed dizzying changes and now, in view of the achievements of science and technology and with the solid expressions of our rich, varied and multiple cultures, the world on reaching the twenty-first century is certain to be overwhelming and complex. Hunger and devastation, illiteracy and isolation, racism and imperialism continue to be the scourges of mankind, which we represent; they must also be cause for collective, shared shame.

Of all the evils, all the plagues, all the burdens, with which we cross the threshold of the new millenium, perhaps drug trafficking is among the worst, and drug addiction is the universal social disease. Drugs are the plaque of the modern world.

We do not seek here merely to differentiate or define causes and effects; much less do we presuppose that the blame lies solely with one group, the producers, or another, the consumers. We are all responsible. We must therefore acknowledge that both supply and demand exist; that borders, nationalities and languages are but stones on the path of that abominable mob that fattens on our peoples and is made up of those who cultivate drugs, those who process them, transport them, distribute them, or consume them, and, finally, those who launder the money made from this degrading illegal trade.

We Mexicans, like other members of the Assembly, are aware of the theory that, if demand is reduced, supply will diminish and, consequently, so will production. But what lies behind that production and that demand?

In the case of those who cultivate drugs, it is poverty, ignorance, exploitation and desperation. Among the consumers it is disappointment,

(Mr. Alvarez del Castillo, Mexico)

alienation, helplessness and discouragement. And these occur, almost without exception, in rich, highly-developed countries.

It is everyone's responsibility to help, so that poor peoples, the poor farmers in so many of our countries, receive the support to which they are entitled, to spare them the shameful need to grow the plants used to make the drugs that are poisoning mankind. We must realize, however, that this support must be economic, timely, real and socially oriented. In addition to relieving hunger, it is necessary to provide justice and dignity for these nations.

The rich countries, the chief consumers of drugs, will have to reexamine the future of their societies. The challenges of tomorrow will also have to be democratically settled there. It must be remembered that punitive actions or restrictive measures are not enough.

The components of the drug trafficking and drug addiction phenomena are mutually conditioning and linked together in an unbreakable chain. Education, the raising of awareness, community participation, integral prevention and reduction of demand, control of supply, suppression of illicit trafficking, and treatment and rehabilitation must be understood as integral components of the actions that we must undertake jointly and simultaneously in order to eradicate these evils. Moreover, all efforts will prove insufficient if the marketing of the essential chemical inputs for drug manufacturing is not effectively controlled. Nor should we ignore the fact that proceeds from drug trafficking are frequently used in the arms trade, which can also be controlled if there is the will to do so among those whose obligation it is.

The President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, has decreed that fighting drug trafficking is a priority matter for the State, a problem of the first

(Mr. Alvarez del Castillo, Mexico)

importance that concerns national security, health and international solidarity and against which we shall continue to act with all our might. He has stated that Mexico will sustain and intensify the struggle, to avoid national security risks and respond to the concern of families over the damage that drug addiction can do to Mexican youth. We have therefore increased our co-operation and exchange of information in our common struggle against drug trafficking, with the understanding that the responsibility for operations within our territory rests exclusively with Mexicans.

Mexico has contributed to and invested a great deal in this struggle. The Mexican people, who in past years have been seriously affected by the economic crisis, have made admirable efforts in that struggle. We are and will continue to be committed to giving our best in the fight against drug trafficking and drug addiction, with our own resources and in our own way, through our own efforts and free will, even though the cost in both lives and resources has been very high.

Half the budget of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and a third of that of the Mexican Armed Forces are allocated to combating drugs. In order to redress the situation in to which criminals were carrying out their activities with impunity, methods of investigation have been updated and the penalties and punishment applicable to this type of crime have been increased.

The actions of the Government of Mexico during the past 14 months have led to the verified destruction of 43,551 marijuana fields and 48,776 poppy fields. During the same period, 697 kilograms of opium gum and heroin have been seized, as have 644 tons of dried, packaged marijuana and 38,519 kilograms of pure cocaine. These actions prevented 1.501 million doses of heroin, 4.222 million doses of marijuana and 616 million doses of cocaine from entering the black market for drugs. Their value would have amounted to more than $50 billion. We know what we

(Mr. Alvarez del Castillo, Mexico)

have done and what remains to be done. Similarly, 320 criminal organizations have been disbanded and 12,439 persons arrested, among them several of the most notorious and dangerous national and foreign drug traffickers. Substantial amounts of money and property have been seized from them and turned over for use by society.

When considering these results, it should be remembered that drug consumption levels in Mexico are relatively low. The number of regular users amounts to barely 0.8 per cent of the population and these are to be found mainly in urban areas and primarily among the young. We are determined to reduce domestic consumption, principally in inhalable drugs, which we refer to as the drugs of the poor.

In accordance with the principles of sovereignty and self-determination, in February 1989 Mexico signed - and will soon ratify - the Vienna Convention, which lays down the principle that influence or pressure may not be exercised against other States. Within this framework, Mexico's international co-operation to date has been formalized in seven bilateral agreements on co-operation in fighting drug trafficking, which call for a number of operational programmes and specific actions. Six other similar bilateral agreements are currently being negotiated.

(Mr. Alvarez del Castillo, Mexico)

From the bilateral approach we shall move to the multilateral approach, with greater prospects of success.

For that reason, we repeat that the fight against drug trafficking must be carried out with scrupulous respect for each country's national sovereignty. We are in favour of applying the international legal framework, and we insist on the effective application of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which calls for a comprehensive, balanced approach to the fight against drug production, abuse and trafficking. We insist on full application of the Multidisciplinary Outline by means of bilateral and multilateral action. It is necessary that all of us understand that declarations and documents will not solve the grave problems that confront us; we need economic support, specific programmes and concrete actions.

Standing firmly on our recognized international doctrine, we are opposed to the creation of all multinational military or paramilitary forces. Unilateral measures, arbitrary positions that slander and intimidate, threats that offend the sovereignty of peoples and the dignity of individuals, cannot be tolerated. Criticism should be open and to the point.

Neither the sovereignty of peoples nor territorial integrity is open to discussion. International co-operation must rest on the principle of respect for the rights of others.

These social ills, which are characteristic of our times, can be fought only with the antidote of co-operation, knowledge and understanding. To the challenges of the future we must respond with deeds, not words. We cannot afford to lose this fight. In this regard, there are not, and cannot be, any limitations in terms of

(Mr. Alvarez del Castillo, Mexico)

nationality, race, religion or distinction of any type. We are all part of humanity, part of a single project, a single plan - a better tomorrow.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to the bodies of the United Nations that Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar leads so effectively and with such dignity.

Mr. McWEENEY (Bahamas): On behalf of the Government and the people of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and on my own behalf, I extend warm congratulations to you, Sir, on assuming the presidency of the General Assembly at this historic seventeenth special session. We are confident that you will lead our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

We also wish to commend the Secretary-General for his commitment to international drug control. We recall, in this respect, that the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking followed on his suggestion. The two important documents of that conference - the declaration and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline - provide a framework, on which we must now build.

The international community is under inexorable pressure to exercise political will and to consolidate and implement an effective strategy appropriate to the gravity of the illicit-drugs problem. The options are few, given the intensity of the challenge that international drug-trafficking networks present to the global community. Developing and developed countries alike have been brought to the brink of social disaster, in consequence of drug abuse and attendant criminality. Consequently, throughout 1989, my Government stressed in all international forums the critical need for bilateral, regional and international co-operation at the highest levels, to devise comprehensive anti-narcotics strategies. Only

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

through co-operation can we effectively combat the powerful drug cartels, which terrorize our social order and undermine our legitimate economies.

The obligation to co-operate and the concept of shared responsibility in the drug war cannot be challenged. The Bahamas believes that embracing this concept precludes the making of discriminatory assumptions regarding the capacity of developing countries to fight the drug menace, as this capacity is severely curtailed by limited human and material resources, as well as by financial constraints. Equally important, shared responsibility does not allow for the creation of unequal relationships, in which the solution of one country's drug problem is perceived as taking precedence over that of others'. Nor does it countenance situations where the policy choices of States are formulated under threat of sanction. At the same time, international principles should not be used as roadblocks to the compromise and commitment demanded by shared responsibility.

What shared responsibility does entail is the maximum effort to ensure that international co-operation reaches its full potential. In this regard, the Bahamas does not advocate surrender of sovereignty or derogation from international principles. Concession and compromise made by each State, on the basis of mutual commitment and under conditions mutually agreed, can give practical application to the concept of shared responsibility. It follows that equitably shared costs for every aspect of drug control, and assistance by way of equipment, expertise and other resources, must also be an important element of shared responsibility. The objective must always be to enable each country effectively to fight the drug war, individually and in concert with others, in a manner that will have the most significant and enduring impact on the drug problem.

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

We believe, therefore, that it is important that the General Assembly, at this special session - the first of its kind on the illicit-drugs problem - chart an effective course to address the expansion and entrenchment of the illicit production of, trafficking in, and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In particular, an action-oriented global programme must be approved, and the utmost political will to implement that programme and all future drug control efforts must be reflected in the declaration that the General Assembly adopts at this special session.

The Bahamas contends that it is essential to build on substantive accomplishments in the international system. The manifold, countermeasures within the international drug-control-treaty régime, recently fortified by the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, provide a comprehensive legal framework for effective drug control. The Bahamas is a State party to all these conventions.

The adoption of the 1988 Convention at Vienna in December of that year marked a watershed in the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The signing of the Convention by a substantial number of Member States on that occasion, the growing number of signatories, and the several ratifications are, we believe, indicative of an intensified political will to implement an effective anti-narcotics strategy. The Bahamas was especially pleased to be the very first country to ratify the Convention - in January 1989.

Last October my Prime Minister, addressing the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference on the drug problem, reiterated the importance that the Bahamas attaches to those provisions of the 1988 Convention pertaining to extradition, mutual legal assistance and forfeiture.

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

He called upon the international community, in conformity with that Convention, to develop their national capacities to trace drug profits through the international banking system so that these ill-gotten profits might be attached wherever they are found. We take this opportunity again to urge all States to enact laws and implement regulatory policies in order to insulate their banking systems against that abuse, money laundering.

We are keenly aware of the dual benefit to be derived from the implementation of the Convention's provisions on forfeiture. It puts money back into national treasuries impoverished by expenditure on drug control, and at the same time sends a powerful and persuasive message to drug trafficking networks that in the final analysis crime does not pay.

As a nation which has already taken such action, the Bahamas strongly recommends that all States provisionally apply the 1988 Convention. The stringent supervision of the banking industry of the Bahamas is a matter of record, and seizure and forfeiture laws have been in force since March 1987. The Bahamas concluded an agreement with the United Kingdom reciprocally to enforce assets forfeiture orders in 1988, signed a mutual legal assistance Treaty with the United States for which instruments of ratification will be exchanged in the immediate future, and has also reached agreement with the Government of the United States on the text of a new extradition treaty and with the Government of Canada on a mutual legal assistance treaty. The extradition treaty with the United States will be signed in Nassau within the next fortnight, and we expect to sign the Bahamas-Canada mutual legal assistance treaty at an early date.

The 1988 Convention articulates with clarity and cogency the responsibility of the international community to assist transit States in effectively counteracting

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

the drug problem. The Bahamas would urge that early steps be taken to analysethe methods and routes used for illicit traffic transit and to determine the modalities of technical co-operation and assistance to improve the interdiction capability of transit States, on land, sea and air.

As a transit State, the Bahamas appreciates the advantages to be gained not only from pursuing a firm drug control policy but also from acting in concert with others to thwart the objectives of international drug trafficking networks. Against incredible odds, the accomplishments of the Bahamas at the national level have been exemplary, and its co-operation with other States, particularly the United States of America, was commended in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1989. We believe that the United States-Bahamas relationship in the anti-drug war is unique and the best example of the type of co-operation and assistance mandated by the international drug-control Treaties. This is not to say that drug control has not been without extreme sacrifice, including the postponement of important and pressing development objectives. Rather, it emphasizes the commitment of the Government and people of the Bahamas to the war against the drug cartels.

In the interest of international drug control, the Bahamas continues to dedicate significant portions of its national budget to law enforcement efforts to stem the flow of illicit narcotics into and through the Bahamanian archipelago. We believe that the Bahamas stands as an example not only of how States can inadvertently become entangled in the labyrinth of the nefarious drug trade but of what one small country can accomplish against drug trafficking networks given the requisite determination and a national commitment. It is geography, not the production, manufacture or consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, that has drawn the Bahamas into the drug web. Located between the

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

largest producers and consumers of cocaine, the Bahamas, on its own and inco-operation with the United States, has proved itself capable of rising to the challenge and achieving enormous success against the drug cartels.

Constructive regional arrangements for drug control not only fulfil the need for co-operation and communication at the regional level but also extend the scope of the international community's response to the drug problem. The central role that the United Nations, as the primary international organization, must play in addressing the critical drug situation is facilitated by the efforts of, among others, the Caribbean community and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. It is our firm belief that co-operation within the framework of the United Nations system is fundamental to any success the international community can achieve in drug control.

We believe that there is an urgent need for the international community to harmonize drug control priorities with the requisite support of the United Nations system. It is essential in this regard that we address the myriad factors that would mitigate against the United Nations drug control bodies - the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control playing a strong supportive role. Not only must every effort be made to improve the efficiency of the drug control bodies and the system-wide response to drug control, but requisite human and financial resources must also be allocated.

The Bahamas itself proposes the establishment of a United Nations-funded narcotics enforcement office in the interests of further improving the Organization's structure. We appreciate that law enforcement cannot be the only response to the drug problem, but we believe that it is an important first line of defence in areas as diverse as stemming the transborder movement of illicit

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

substances, eradicating illicit crops and protecting the international bankingsystem from penetration by money launderers. The United Nations has done effective work in strengthening law enforcement co-operation, including training, the provision of equipment and the expansion of its system of meetings of heads of narcotics-law enforcement agencies. Other intergovermental bodies, including the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) continue to provide invaluable input into narcotic-drug law enforcement. We believe that the time has come to review the diverse law enforcement efforts to ensure a coherent approach to law enforcement activities on a continuing basis.

Complementary to law enforcement efforts, vigorous initiatives must be launched and sustained against the production of narcotics and psychotropic substances, in accordance with relevant international instruments and agreements. The Bahamas has followed closely initiatives aimed at a more realistic approach to crop substitution. Preferential tariffs and treatment for substitute crops in the markets of the industrialized world can provide an important incentive for crop substitution programmes.

The Bahamas also believes that due consideration should be given to the recent proposal to elaborate a new convention against drug abuse. We believe that progress in reducing supply and trafficking is inextricably linked with progress in demand reduction. For this reason the Bahamas has repeatedly made known its support for the ministerial level summit on demand reduction scheduled to be convened in London in April of this year by the Government of the United Kingdom.

We reiterate that the Bahamas has confidence in the capacity of the international community to wage an effective war against illicit drugs. The United Nations role in this regard is indispensable. The struggle however requires unflagging political will, constructive and innovative action-oriented policies and

(Mr. McWeeney, Bahamas)

programmes, increased resources and an international system capable of quick and efficient response. A comprehensive global programme of action supported by a consensus declaration will ensure the success of this special session and represent another significant step in the global campaign against the illicit production and supply of, demand for, trafficking in and the distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Mr. SARASIN (Thailand): My delegation is pleased to see you, Sir, once again presiding over a special session of the General Assembly. We recall that during your tenure as President of the General Assembly you have presided over deliberations on the question of apartheid. My delegation has every confidence that under your able guidance our work at this special session will reach a successful conclusion.

(Mr. Sarasin, Thailand)

With each passing day the drug problem becomes more and more serious. Drug trafficking and related criminal activities have now reached an alarming scale, to the point of destabilizing economies, adversely affecting the development of many countries and threatening the stability, national security and sovereignty of States. The drug problem constitutes a global challenge requiring a sustained global response.

Following the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the organization of this special session is another important step in the international campaign against drug abuse and trafficking. It reflects the serious concern of the United Nations and the world community over the drug problem and its adverse effects on the national security, stability and resilience of all nations in the world. This session takes on even greater significance in that it is being held at a time when the global community is challenged as never before by powerful drug cartels.

The drug menace transcends all boundaries. There is hardly any country, rich or poor, that remains unaffected by its peril. Thus, it is important that all countries, regardless of their political and ideological differences, collaborate to develop drug eradication and suppression measures at the national, regional and international levels.

We in Thailand are very much aware of the danger and cruel effects of narcotic drugs on our people and our society. The Royal Thai Government has always tackled the drug problem with great seriousness. We believe that reduction of the demand for and of the supply of narcotics must go hand in hand; emphasis on one aspect only at the expense of the other is a prescription for failure.

My Government has adopted a two-pronged strategy which provides a balanced and comprehensive approach against narcotics. The first prong is aimed at reducing the

(Mr. Sarasin, Thailand)

drug supply through law enforcement and narcotic cultivation control. The second prong is aimed at reducing the demand for drugs through preventive education and treatment and rehabilitation. I am pleased to say that these measures have succeeded in reducing narcotic production in Thailand.

Nevertheless, Thailand is now faced with a more difficult problem. It is being used as a gateway for the trafficking of narcotic drugs from the infamous Golden Triangle because of our geographical proximity, relatively superior infrastructure and convenient transportation network. While intensive interdiction activities undertaken by the Royal Thai Government have so far substantially disrupted the flow of drugs from the Golden Triangle, in view of the alarming increase in the output of drugs from that area, the success of current suppression and interdiction activities remains doubtful without stronger and more generous support from the international community.

Thailand has also played an active role against the drug problem at the international level. We believe that the drug problem is an international problem that no country can solve on its own. Thailand has therefore co-operated closely with a number of friendly countries and international organizations in our common war against drugs, as attested to by our active exchange of information and intelligence on the drug traffic with many countries and international organizations.

In this connection, allow me to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Royal Thai Government heartfelt appreciation of the assistance rendered to Thailand by all our friends, such as Australia, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the United States, as well as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, to name but a few.

(Mr. Sarasin, Thailand)

My delegation also welcomes the recently concluded summit conference on drugs in Cartagena, Colombia. The joint statement acknowledges the need for demand reduction. It also underscores the need to encourage crop-substitution projects by providing extensive access to commercial markets for these crops. We welcome this as a useful framework for future co-operation, to be followed by countries in other regions affected by the scourge of drugs and illicit trafficking.

Existing international drug control treaties form an important basis for individual action by States and for their co-operation at the regional, interregional and global levels. Thailand is a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, of 1961, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, of 1971. We have also endorsed the declaration emanating from the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of 1987 and the implementation of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control. Our acceptance of these instruments serves to declare our intention to engage in a war against drug traffickers. Furthermore, we also participated in the 1988 conference of plenipotentiaries for the adoption of a convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in Vienna. Many provisions of the Convention - those concerning the seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of and assets derived from illicit drug trafficking and conspiracy, among others - may prove to be the most appropriate weapons against drug trafficking. I should like to note that Thailand has applied in practice many of the provisions of the Convention. We are now in the process of drafting a bill containing anti-conspiracy measures as well as measures to facilitate the confiscation of drug proceeds and properties. It is one of the required steps towards accession to the 1988 Vienna Convention.

(Mr. Sarasin, Thailand)

The special session should open up a new chapter of international co-operation to combat illicit drugs. The Royal Thai Government attaches great importance to it. We are confident that a high-level meeting like this will mobilize more concerted efforts from the world community to match the degree of gravity of the drug problem. This gathering will be an important testing ground to see how much the international community as a whole is willing and able to establish a common front against the drug traffickers.

The global programme of action to be adopted in the next few days must be action oriented, containing concrete, comprehensive and long-term objectives. It should be based on a sound strategy, addressing simultaneously all the aspects of the problem: reducing demand, controlling supply, halting the illicit traffic, strengthening United Nations control organs and bridging the resources shortfall.

My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the United Nations drug bodies for their past achievements in mobilizing and co-ordinating international efforts to eradicate drug problems. We want to see the United Nations continue its central role in this vital area. My delegation is confident that the United Nations system-wide plan of action on drug-abuse control being prepared by the Secretary-General will complement the global programme of action, resulting in significant improvement in the efficiency of the United Nations structure and programmes for drug-abuse control world-wide.

Let me reiterate that for its part the Royal Thai Government stands ready to step up its efforts to stem the flow of drugs from the Golden Triangle to the markets in the West. I should like to call upon the international community to lend further support to our activities. In that connection my delegation would also like to emphasize the need for the drug-consuming countries to step up

(Mr. Sarasin, Thailand)

measures to reduce local demand for drugs, because, without a market, no business can exist. I fully agree with the President of Colombia when he said that the only law that the drug traffickers do not break is the law of supply and demand.

Prince Bola AJIBOLA (Nigeria): On behalf of the Government and the people of Nigeria, may I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your unanimous election to steer the work of the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General, his officials and all the representatives whose preparatory work has made the actualization of General Assembly resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989 and the present gathering of distinguished delegations in this Hall possible. I believe that all of us are gathered here today to deliberate, with a sincere sense of mission and concern for humanity, on how we can jointly and effectively strengthen international co-operation against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking in and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

As Minister responsible for the administration of justice and law enforcement, I have watched and followed with great concern the increased rate of drug-related offences in the world. For me and for many of my colleagues in other countries this has been a source of grave concern. The convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international co-operation against illicit drugs and trafficking in psychotropic substances is the proof of this collective sense of urgency to deal with the issue felt by the international community. My delegation attaches great importance to the special session and hopes that it will produce positive results.

(Prince Bola Ajibola, Nigeria)

As anyone who has followed developments relating to narcotic drugs and illicit trafficking in substances can testify, the solution to the menace posed by drug and substance abuse is obviously beyond national efforts. My delegation believes that the main task before the special session is to agree on realistic measures that can be adopted as soon as possible and implemented almost immediately to arrest further deterioration of the drug phenomenon.

It is all well and good to draw up a litany of programmes on information and education aimed at increasing the awareness of the general public. We believe, however, that mere statements on paper on the control of supply, or the eradication and substitution of the illicit production and processing of narcotic drugs and substances, will be purely cosmetic if adequate measures are not taken to ensure that the right follow-up mechanisms are put in place. My delegation agrees wholeheartedly with the continued use of the present monitoring and control mechanisms, as well as the utilization of the institutions *in situ*. We recognize the importance of strengthening the judicial and legal systems and believe that, if well employed at the sub-regional, regional and international levels, these will contribute in no uncertain terms to the eradication of the drug trafficking and abuse in the world. Nigeria believes that whereas primary responsibility falls upon individual States for the success of such measures to arrest the diversion of arms and explosives and the illicit traffic of vessels and aircrafts, the onus for putting to meaningful use all information issued by the Under-Secretary-General for Social Affairs and co-ordinator for all drug-related issues rests squarely on the General Assembly.

The succinct and precise analysis provided by the officials of the United Nations Office at Vienna is to the effect that additional resources are required by

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the United Nations drug-abuse control system if it is to implement fully all existing mandates. It was said that some $33 million, including $7 million of additional funds to the regular budget, are approximately the sums that may be required for the development of the United Nations system-wide plan. Furthermore, it was clearly stated that what has been done to date by the international community is inadequate to cope with the problems posed by illicit drugs and psychotropic substances.

(Prince Bola Ajibola, Nigeria)

It follows that adequate attention by this session to the appointed officials' appeals for the co-ordination of all United Nations drug-related activities will be a step in the right direction towards finding the long-overdue solution to drug problems. A more effective approach to the issue would be the mounting by committed volunteers of a massive drive for needed funds, rather than the appointment of yet another body of experts on various aspects of the drug problem. The offers of co-operation by the various non-governmental organizations should be accorded due consideration and, where possible, accepted. The role of these well-qualified men and women who are from all walks of life and are actually in daily contact with the realities of drug problems may constitute just the support mechanism needed for the effective combating of the drug issue, in all its ramifications. The problem is certainly beyond the scope of the United Nations and its various bodies alone.

It is time for all Governments and non-governmental organizations as well as all humanitarian institutions and individuals to make their varied and much-needed contributions.

At the national level, Nigeria has enacted laws imposing stiff penalties for drug offences, penalties such as life imprisonment and the forfeiture of all assets of the drug trafficker. In addition, on 29 December 1989 the Government promulgated the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Decree No. 48 of 1989. This Decree provides for, among others, measures to identify, trace, freeze and confiscate the proceeds derived from drug and drug-related offences.

In the West African subregion Nigeria is already co-operating with the Republics of Benin, Ghana and Togo for the purpose of negotiating a quadripartite treaty on mutual assistance for the eradication of illicit drug trafficking within the subregion. When the treaty is signed, signatory States will be expected to

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grant to one another assistance in the investigation of illicit drug trafficking in all its ramifications.

Furthermore, within the ambit of the Commonwealth, the Nigerian Government also promulgated Decree No. 13 of 1988 - known as "Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters within the Commonwealth (Enactment and Enforcement Decree 1988)". The objective of the Decree is to increase the level of assistance and co-operation between Commonwealth countries in criminal matters, including the offence of drug trafficking.

Nigeria believes that all these efforts must be linked to international treaties in order to enhance their effectiveness. It is on record that as early as June 1981 we ratified the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and in the same year acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol. And just a year ago - in February 1989, to be precise - Nigeria signed the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Nigeria thus became the third signatory State to ratify the Convention.

In order to contain effectively the nefarious activities of traffickers, we believe that efforts must be intensified at the bilateral level to put in place treaties on mutual assistance in law-enforcement matters. Conscious of the advantages of such mutual assistance, Nigeria concluded two agreements with the United States - namely, the Executive Agreement on Procedures for Mutual Assistance in Law-Enforcement Matters, in November 1987; and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, in September 1989. These agreements are intended to facilitate the efficient execution of requests from one country to the other for law-enforcement assistance, in our continuing and relentless efforts to stop illicit trafficking. An identical treaty was also signed with Great Britain, under

(Prince Bola Ajibola, Nigeria)

Commonwealth auspices, and we are at present negotiating similar bilateral agreements with India, Egypt and Ethiopia - to name but a few. All that is being done in the spirit of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

It is a welcome development that many countries have adopted measures in their legal systems to enable their Governments to comply with the provisions of the Convention relating to laundering, tracing, freezing and confiscating assets. The introduction of controlled delivery will, we believe, help law-enforcement agencies apprehend the leading drug traffickers and bring them to justice. There is ample evidence that there is co-ordination between the United Nations and its agencies and various organizations working in these fields. The volume of the available reports and documentation on their findings is proof of the work done as well as an indication of issues that are yet to be addressed. My delegation therefore believes that the content of the global plan of action which the special session adopts will go a long way towards determining the success or otherwise of the present concerted efforts at the international level to eliminate the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Nevertheless, attention should be focused on ways of suppressing demand as well as production and supply. We support fully the idea of an international decade on narcotic drugs, as this would generate a global awareness, especially in the producer and user nations, of the evils of narcotic drugs. The same period could be used for fund-raising to support United Nations activities in this direction.

The work of the special session would be incomplete without effective deliberations by representatives on a concerted effort to support the poor economies of the producing nations. That would serve as a helpful incentive by enabling those nations to channel more resources towards suppressing the production and supply of illicit narcotic drugs.

(Prince Bola Ajibola, Nigeria)

Finally, it is my delegation's hope that the Organization will be able to release its potential power, in an integrated and co-ordinated manner, to meet the challenges of the task before the session. With greater determination and increased understanding and appreciation of the problems, backed by the necessary political will, I believe the goals we have set for ourselves are achievable. When we reflect on the heart-wrenching effects of drug abuse, we know that we must, with grim determination, brace ourselves to meet the challenge, in the supreme belief that with close collaboration and a well-co-ordinated approach, success over the menace of drug trafficking and abuse will be brought within reach earlier than expected.

Mr. SCHAUBLE (Federal Republic of Germany) (spoke in German; English text furnished by the delegation): The Minister of Justice of Ireland has already set forth the joint position of the member nations of the European Community. To add to his presentation, I should like to elaborate on some issues from the point of view of the Federal Republic of Germany.

We are gratified, Mr. President, that you, an eminent representative of Africa, will be directing the business of this special session of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your experienced presidency this session, which is devoted to one of the most pressing problems of our time, will yield good results.

The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the fact that with this special session of the General Assembly the United Nations is once again demonstrating to the world public its determination to proscribe drug abuse. We must all be committed to the same cause, that of proscribing drugs, just as we previously proscribed torture and slavery.

Over the years many different measures have been taken at both the national and the international level to combat the ever increasing drug problem. Those measures, however, have never led to a co-ordinated world-wide combat strategy. Now for the first time there are signs of an earnest willingness to take that step, and it is imperative that it be taken. We must protect mankind from the self-destruction inflicted by drugs.

The estimated total turnover from illicit drug trafficking has now reached several billion dollars. That concentration of criminal power can be countered effectively only on the basis of close international co-ordination and co-operation. We must not waste time. We must use this special session of the General Assembly to make good headway in this effort.

(Mr. Schauble, Federal Republic of Germany)

If we are to achieve our purpose we must abstain from yet another fruitless discussion of whether demand or supply is the effective cause of the drug problem. The two are inseparably linked and interdependent. What matters most is that, on the basis of the fundamental consensus reached at the international drug Conferences of 1987 and 1988, we should now agree on specific measures that can be initiated within a short space of time.

In this context we must be quite clear on one point: the fight against drug abuse is a joint task of the international community that can be successfully performed only if all nations assume joint responsibility. It is not by opposing the producing countries but only by joining forces with them that the consuming nations can get the drug situation under control. That was the message sent to us from the Cartagena conference by the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and the United States. The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the decisions taken at that conference.

The crucial issues are, on the one hand, reduction of the demand for drugs by means of effective prevention and improved rehabilitation and, on the other, reduction of drug supplies by eliminating the economic and social causes of the cultivation of drugs in producer countries by ensuring effective control of chemicals and intensifying the fight against drug-related crime, especially drug trafficking.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to launch simultaneous efforts in all those areas. The Federal Chancellor, Mr. Kohl, has ordered the drafting of a national anti-drug plan, to be adopted in June this year by a national drugs conference. Its aims will be to bring together all governmental and non-governmental forces involved in drug control so that they may

(Mr. Schauble, Federal Republic of Germany)

work together towards jointly established objectives, and to open up new financial, technological and intellectual resources for the fight against drugs.

As we see it, the foremost objective of our national anti-drug policy is to persuade people, especially young people, to live a life without narcotics and drug addiction, in free self-determination. We shall significantly intensify our national measures in this field. Only recently, at the start of a large-scale education and awareness campaign, the Head of State of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal President von Weizsacker, appealed to all citizens of our country to ostracize drug consumption in any form.

Another important concern of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is to prevent any diversion of chemicals into the illicit manufacture of drugs. For this purpose, co-operative action has been taken in our country, in conjunction with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, to provide control mechanisms which make it possible to detect illegal drug laboratories and prevent the illegal diversion even of substances which are not subject to legal controls because they are not themselves psychotropic and because they are required in large quantities for legitimate purposes.

As a further addition to this system we shall offer bilateral agreements to various countries to the effect that export permits for chemicals that can be used only for the manufacture of drugs will be granted only if the receiving countries authorize their importation. Moreover, we shall, within the European Community, advocate a uniform standard governing the control of chemicals which can be used for the manufacture of such drugs.

The crucial flaw is the current practice of brokerage firms by which they specify or change the destination of such chemicals only after the goods have left

(Mr. Schauble, Federal Republic of Germany)

the territory of the country of origin. Also, supervision in the countries of destination is often inadequate. By means of agreements with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and broker organizations and by developing effective monitoring models and helping with their implementation, the United Nations could make a significant contribution to preventing illegal diversion of chemicals to the manufacture of drugs.

Any effective reduction in the supply of drugs presupposes that in addition to fighting drug trafficking we significantly reduce the cultivation of drug-yielding plants. The cultivation and sale of drugs must no longer be allowed to be the basis of existence for entire regions. Therefore, there must be substitutes for drug production, along with comprehensive international measures in the area of economic, trade and development policies in order to eliminate the economic dependence of the producing countries on the cultivation of and trade in drugs. In our country the anti-drug campaign is one of the priorities of our development policy. This year alone we have made available to producing countries an additional amount of DM 100 million for rural development and structural improvement and to support their narcotics control agencies.

We think that, in addition to bilateral aid given by individual States, well-directed use of loans by the World Bank and the regional development banks is also required.

In view of the serious economic and social damage caused by drug abuse, anti-drug policies must be brought to bear also in trade policy, so that concrete measures may promote some form of economically appropriate conversion to the cultivation of substitute crops in the producing countries.

(Mr. Schauble, Federal Republic of Germany)

The European Community, too, must bring to bear all its economic and political weight in support of the anti-drug campaign. We therefore welcome the establishment by the Council of Europe of a committee of drug co-ordinators. In that forum we shall come out in favour of the Community's attaching greater importance to the drug problem in its co-operation with developing countries.

The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, which indisputably has much experience in the planning, co-ordination, funding and implementation of alternative cultivation projects and measures to combat drugs in Asia, Africa and Latin America, must be allocated considerably more funds if it is to fulfil its functions more effectively. It is quite obvious that the resources allotted so far are not commensurate with the scale of the threat. We must therefore find new ways of funding the effort. One approach might be for all States to commit themselves to making confiscated profits from illegal drug transactions available to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. In particular, we shall make every effort to ensure that the administrative efficiency of the Fund is enhanced so as to allow further development of the master plan concept. Such master plans constitute an extremely important instrument for meaningful and purposeful project co-operation in the producing regions.

(Mr. Schauble, Federal Republic of Germany)

In addition to the implementation of development projects, there is also a need for the comprehensive counselling of developing countries on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and law enforcement with regard to drug abuse. Only the United Nations can adequately fulfil that task. The United Nations should set up advisory teams of experts on those issues and make them available to developing countries upon request.

Recent developments have highlighted the power of the drug barons to establish their criminal networks throughout national territories by means of violent action and corruption. That should cause us to consider whether and how the United Nations can assist those countries threatened by drug terrorism and wishing such intervention by the detachment enforcement units.

If our aim is significant containment of international drug trafficking, then prevention and suppression will have to go hand in hand. Just as it is for the United Nations to commit all Governments to adopt effective anti-drug policies and to support them in that effort, so the International Criminal Police Organization - INTERPOL - must be enabled and called upon to continue further development of concepts for fighting international drug trafficking. To that purpose, the Secretariat-General must be assigned the function of a world-wide co-ordinating agency. Its regional offices in the various continents should develop model strategies for the individual cultivation and transit regions.

The transborder anti-drug operations of the police and customs authorities have also shown the disadvantage of the fact that INTERPOL does not yet have a co-ordinating function but is confined to exchanges of intelligence and information. We must therefore endeavour to ensure that an INTERPOL co-ordinating office be established. INTERPOL can make a further significant contribution

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towards enhancing international co-operation as regards detection of drug profits. To that end, the Secretariat-General's Section for Confiscation of Profits should be expanded.

On the national level, the Federal Republic of Germany has initiated the necessary steps for implementing the 1988 Convention. Improved regulations governing confiscation of assets and the introduction of a property penalty will soon enable us to deprive drug traffickers of their financial base. They will also clear the way for the conclusion of bilateral agreements on co-operation regarding confiscation of illegal drug profits.

It is the duty of every generation to leave the world to the next generation in such a condition as to allow remaining problems to be solved. I believe that we have a good chance of overcoming the drug problem if, now that the cold war is over, we tackle it with all determination over the next decade. To that end, we will have to mobilize all national and international forces at the governmental level. However, every individual will also have to make his or her contribution towards preventing drug abuse among the present and all future generations and towards stopping drug trafficking and illicit drug production.

Mr. de ABREU SODRE (Brazil) (spoke in Portuguese; English text furnished by the delegation): My Government is very pleased, Sir, as am I, to see you presiding over the work of this special session of the General Assembly devoted to considering the issue of international co-operation in the fight against the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Under your skilful and experienced guidance, I am fully confident that this session will reach important decisions aimed at greater international co-operation in the fight against the drug problem in all its dimensions and consequences.

(Mr. de Abreu Sodre, Brazil)

The perception of the various aspects of the problem of narcotic drugs has evolved considerably in recent times. Joint efforts aimed at increasing co-operation in the fight against not only production and trafficking but also consumption have been the growing trend in tackling the question of narcotic drugs. Fourteen international instruments aimed at controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were concluded between 1912 and 1988. That is a clear demonstration of the international community's full awareness that co-operation among nations in the search for effective solutions is imperative.

Despite the diversity and number of existing conventions and agreements, the gravity and extent of the drug phenomenon in the world today - especially the dramatic increase in the number of addicts in the last few years - underscore above all the need to extend such co-operation to new areas. The convening of this special session of the General Assembly thus seems to us a timely initiative, in that it affords the international community the opportunity to display its resolve in facing the full spectrum of the drug problem.

In the evolving perception of the complexity of this issue, it is encouraging to note that most countries are beginning to recognize that the drug problem comprises three components: demand, supply and trafficking. In spite of the evidence, certain countries are only now coming to realize that, in order to be effective, any and all action aimed at combating the scourge of drugs must simultaneously address all facets of the problem.

Most international efforts directed against the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances have focused almost exclusively on illicit cultivation and production - i.e. the supply side. Both the 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs, amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1972 Convention on Psychotropic Substances seek particularly to regulate and control supply and, whenever, possible, to curb the availability of such substances for illicit purposes.

(Mr. de Abreu Sodre, Brazil)

The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, for its part, represents an important innovation. It is not limited to production but instead concentrates on drug trafficking, that is, the activity that brings together the two fundamental elements not only of the drug problem but, for that matter, of any commercial transaction: supply and demand. When in force, the Convention will no doubt emerge as a powerful tool for States in co-ordinating their fight against the illicit traffic, for it is aimed at regulating judicial co-operation and countering activities directly linked to trafficking, such as money laundering and the diversion of chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs.

Brazil has signed the Convention and is taking the necessary internal measures for its early ratification.

With regard to the areas covered by the international instruments to which I have referred, the present special session should consider the following points: first, that the elimination of illicit crops can be achieved only through integrated programmes of rural development that seek to introduce economically viable and sustainable alternatives in areas previously dominated by illegal cultivation, with due respect for each country's cultural and religious traditions; secondly, that in the area of international co-operation against illicit traffic there is growing concern with the need to address the issues of controlling the covert flow of arms to traffickers and of the participation of mercenaries in drug-related criminal activities; and, thirdly, that drug marketing and distribution merits greater attention, because it is the aspect of trafficking that occurs within the borders of major consuming countries.

In that context, if any policy to combat the drug traffic is to be effective, it is essential that the Governments of all the countries involved acknowledge the

(Mr. de Abreu Sodre, Brazil)

need on the one hand to control chemical precursors and on the other to establish mechanisms to curb the laundering of money derived from illicit trafficking.

Still with regard to existing international instruments, I wish to recall the Rio Programme of Action, which in 1986 established the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS). The Rio Programme of Action proved very timely and relevant, most of all by defining the principles and objectives that should guide international co-operation in the fight against narcotic drugs and by prescribing the necessary balance of prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation. The Programme of Action has met with unanimous approval and thus represents a common denominator for those countries whose markets, by virtue of their purchasing power, provide a powerful stimulus to production and trafficking and producing and transit countries.

Unfortunately, improvement of existing international conventions will not in itself suffice effectively to tackle the drug problem. Little progress can be achieved at the international level unless States commit themselves firmly to co-operation to reduce significantly the other element of the equation: it is necessary to eliminate the illicit demand that keeps the drug trade alive.

Every society must honestly and courageously examine the internal factors that contribute to the still uncontrollable increase in drug consumption. Let us not delude ourselves into thinking that the problem can be eliminated without pursuing the clear intention of learning how it arises and adequately addressing its root causes. It is necessary to identify the motivating factors that lead to drug abuse, in particular in societies where it would appear that satisfactory levels of progress and well-being have long been attained. It is necessary for international organizations to collaborate within their respective fields in the effort to identify these motivating factors.

(Mr. de Abreu Sodre, Brazil)

This special session of the General Assembly must enable us to examine frankly and openly the problem of drug abuse in all its ramifications. The seriousness of our efforts will reflect our common resolve to address all elements of the problem with the required thoroughness. The adoption of such a comprehensive and exhaustive approach to the question will not only mean much more effective and fruitful international co-operation but also make it abundantly clear that we are committed to bequeathing to future generations a world from which the scourge of drugs has been banished for ever.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.